CONCEPT CIRCLES

**Purpose**: Help students to explain concepts (including the meanings of words) and to see connections between concepts (and between words).

**What the teacher does:**

* Draw a circle on the board and divide it into four segments
* In each segment, write a key word associated with the subject content

**What the students do:**

* Look at the circle and the four words / ideas
* In pairs, work out what the relationship between the words / ideas and explain it

**Example: Topic** – Effective Literacy Practice

Student independence

Scaffolding

Four modes

Technology

Mapping out my ideas

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Concept/  Word | What I know already  (own view, from others, ‘I think’… ) | Own culture’s understanding | Alagaoa Samoa / Resources eg alagaupu, references eg Bible etc | ‘New’ / another perspective | Questions I have? |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Communicating information, ideas and opinions with confidence**

**Starters**

I think …

The concept / word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ refers ….

In my mind …

**Using evidence**

Using personal story – eg I have always …

In my family /country …

Refer to data / research / source – In the recent survey of …

There are several reasons for this, the first being…

One explanation of…

**Using language of comparison**

Similarly, …

On a different / similar note …

In contrast, …

On the other hand …

**Making links to ideas of others**

I have a similar understanding to ….

Siaki’s idea reminds me of …

I see things differently from …

**Using structural devices to organise ideas**

Firstly…

Secondly…

Finally…

**Questioning ideas / Expressing doubt**

Although the idea makes sense to me, these are some reservations/questions I have … (use structural devices to sort points of view)

The following ideas still require clarification for me …

What evidence is there to support ….?

So what?

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**Example: Topic** –